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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 005051

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PBTS](#) [PINR](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: CODEL INHOFE MEETS WITH TNA MEMBERS

REF: A. BAGHDAD 4692

[1](#)B. BAGHDAD 4746

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S.  
Ford for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) met December 12  
with TNA members Dr. Saad Qindeel, Wijdan Salim, and  
Yunadem Kanna.

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Security Situation: We are in a Catch-22  
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[1](#)2. (C) Wijdan Salim said the security situation is  
still "very bad," and the Iraqi government needs to  
protect people, particularly candidates and campaign  
workers. Later, she suggested that the Ministry of  
Interior is loyal to Iran. She also said the U.S.  
military is making Iraqis hate them because of their  
security and construction projects, citing a plan to  
build barricades on the ring roads in Baghdad. Dr.  
Qindeel described the security situation as "not good,  
but improved." He added that "we do not see the light  
at the end of the tunnel although we are moving in the  
right direction." Dr. Qindeel said Iraq is caught in  
a Catch-22: it needs MNF-I to build up the ISF so that  
it can assume the security portfolio and MNF-I can  
leave, which most Iraqis want to happen as soon as  
possible. He stated that, from the Government of  
Iraq's perspective, MNF-I is acting as a hindrance to  
the build-up of ISF to self-sufficiency.

[1](#)3. (C) Dr. Qindeel did not miss another opportunity to  
note that the control of the intelligence services  
needs to be returned to the Government of Iraq  
(reftels). (NOTE: This demand was also contained in  
the TNA Sovereignty Commission Report issued in  
September. The Shia Alliance has repeatedly claimed  
that the INIS is closely affiliated with U.S.  
intelligence services and is infiltrated by former  
Ba'athists. END NOTE.) He added that Iraq's 2006  
Budget did not contain any funding for the  
intelligence services (which he estimated at \$250  
million). He alleged that the entire budget is being  
financed by the USG. He concluded by saying, "How can  
we get to self-sufficiency if we do not have control?"

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Kanna's Soliloquy: How to Fix Iraq and Stop Depending  
on the Kurds  
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[1](#)4. (C) Yunadem Kanna took advantage of the meeting to  
speak at length on a variety of topics. He said that  
90% of Iraqis were happy when Saddam's regime fell,  
but they did not all move in the same direction since  
some of them had different dreams for Iraq. He  
stressed the importance of Iraq stopping destabilizing  
external factors (e.g., foreign terrorists crossing  
open borders) and ridding itself of bad internal  
factors (e.g., Ba'athists). In order to move forward,  
there needs to be reconciliation to bring in the Sunni  
Arabs and De-Ba'athification against real criminals.  
Wijdan Salim disagreed with Kanna's viewpoint on de-  
Ba'athification, saying most Iraqis were Ba'athists  
and the De-Ba'athification process is adversely  
affecting many ordinary Iraqis. She added that those  
Ba'athists who committed crimes to Iraqis need to be  
judged through the courts.

[1](#)5. (C) Kanna's intense dislike for the Kurds (whose  
actions have disenfranchised those Chaldo-Assyrians in  
northern Iraq who do not support the Kurdish Alliance)  
was evident when he criticized the U.S. for relying on  
the same people for advice, creating a situation where  
the U.S. had the love of 3 million and made 24 million  
suffer. He later added that "maybe the Kurds will be  
brought down by a Shia/Sunni Alliance."

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE  
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[1](#)6. (C) Baghdad-native Saad Qindeel is a moderate Shia  
and head of the political bureau of SCIRI, the largest

party in the Shia Alliance. He also serves on the Constitutional Committee. Baghdad-native Wijdan Salim is Chaldean Assyrian Christian and Secretary of the TNA's Committee on Foreign Relations. She is a supporter of former PM Ayad Allawi and is running on his list in December. She is also a reliable interlocutor on the life of ordinary Baghdadis. Yunadem Kanna is also Chaldean Assyrian Christian, and serves as Secretary General of the Assyrian Democratic Movement and Chairman of the Services and Reconstruction Committee. He is a well known advocate for Christian rights as well as a member of the Constitutional Committee and the De-Ba'athification Commission.

KHALILZAD